

REMARKS

Upon review of the pending Office Action, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, in light of the positions presented herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

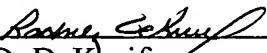
Applicants appreciate the allowability of claim 14. Accordingly, claims 12 and 19 are hereby amended. Applicants respectfully request that the corresponding rejections be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

The Examiner maintained his position regarding independent claim 1 and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over JP '550 together with Hsieh. Again, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's concern, but respectfully disagree for reasons previously presented and upon further review. The JP '550 reference clearly describes adding acid solutions (e.g., vinegar/acetic acid and citric acid solutions) to the soybean material to provide a paste. (For example, reference is made to page 6, steps 2-3, and page 8, steps 3-6, of JP '550). Accordingly, JP '550 teaches away from the method recited in claim 1, and no other reference of record would motivate one skilled in the art to modify JP '550 to do what Applicants have done.

Nonetheless, without further limitation or prior art concern, claim 1 is hereby amended to clarify the patentable distinctions of the recited invention. Support for such an amendment can be found throughout the specification; in particular, on pages 4-5 and in the examples of the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

This application is believed to be in condition for full allowance. Consistent therewith, favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain. Thank you for your help and consideration.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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